

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 8-34 were pending. Claims 8 and 14 are amended, and claim 13 is canceled. Claims 8, 9-12, and 14-34 remain pending.

Interview Summary

A telephonic interview was conducted on November 8, 2006. Present during the interview were: M. C. Wimer (Examiner), Dan Krueger (Attorney of Record), and Tim Chheda (Attorney for Applicant). Applicant discussed various shortcomings of the prior art, and proposed various claim amendments for the Examiner's consideration. Though no specific agreement was reached, Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's comments with appreciation.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 8, 9, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda (U.S. Patent 6,008,766), and claims 10, 12, and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda. Insofar as these rejections apply to the claims as amended, applicant respectfully traverses because the cited art fails to teach or suggest every claim limitation. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP 2131. "[T]he prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." MPEP 2143.

Claim 8 as amended recites in part "two joining sections each joining the first L-shaped

section with the second L-shaped section at respective ends of the first and second L-shaped sections, such that a closed loop is formed.” Maeda at FIG.1 does not teach or suggest a closed loop or a joining section at each end of the L-shaped sections. For at least this reason applicant submits claim 8 and its dependent claims 9–12 and 14–18 are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

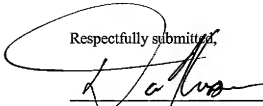
Claims 19–34 have been allowed.

Conclusion

In the course of the foregoing discussions, applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged Texas Instruments Inc.'s Deposit Account No. 20-0668 for such fees.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Krueger
PTO Reg. No. 42,771
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT